

I Claim:

- 1 1. A method for evaluating capacity utilization of a terminus in a communication
2 system; said terminus having a maximum capacity and accommodating a plurality of
3 communication lines in coupled relationship with said terminus; each respective
4 communication line of said plurality of communication lines having a respective line
5 speed and a respective character-type; said respective character-type being one
6 character-type of a plurality of character-types extant in said communication system;
7 the method comprising the steps of:
8 (a) identifying said plurality of communication lines;
9 (b) identifying said respective line speed and said respective character-type for each
10 said respective communication line;
11 (c) determining type line speed contribution by respective said communication lines
12 having a particular said respective character-type;
13 (d) summing said type line speed contribution by all said respective character-types to
14 determine a total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication
15 lines; and
16 (e) comparing said total line speed contribution with said maximum capacity to effect
17 said evaluating.
- 1 2. A method for evaluating capacity utilization of a terminus in a communication system
2 as recited in Claim 1 wherein the method further includes an interim step following
3 step (d) and preceding step (e); said interim step comprising:
4 (d) (1) adjusting said total line speed contribution by a limiter factor to determine an
5 adjusted total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication
6 lines; said limiter factor establishing a limit regarding the number of said plurality
7 of communication lines that operate simultaneously;
8 and wherein step (e) comprises comparing said adjusted total line speed contribution
9 with said maximum capacity to effect said evaluating.

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1 4. A method for evaluating capacity utilization of a terminus in a communication system
2 as recited in Claim 2 wherein said communication system is a telecommunication
3 system and wherein said terminus includes a multiplexing apparatus for selectively
4 coupling said respective communication lines with at least one telecommunication
5 switching apparatus.

1 5. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a communication system;
2 said terminus being constructed for having a design capacity for accommodating a
3 plurality of communication lines in coupled relation with said terminus; said design
4 capacity being established by employing at least one interface unit; each interface unit
5 of said at least one interface unit having a predetermined capacity; each respective
6 communication line of said plurality of communication lines having a respective line
7 speed and a respective character-type; said respective character-type being one
8 character-type of a plurality of character-types extant in said communication system;
9 the method comprising the steps of:

10 (a) identifying said plurality of communication lines;
11 (b) identifying said respective line speed and said respective character-type for each
12 said respective communication line;
13 (c) determining type line speed contribution by respective said communication lines
14 having a particular said respective character-type;
15 (d) summing said type line speed contribution by all said respective character-types to
16 determine a total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication
17 lines; and

1 6. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a communication system
2 as recited in Claim 5 wherein the method further includes an interim step following
3 step (d) and preceding step (e); said interim step comprising:
4 (d) (1) adjusting said total line speed contribution by a limiter factor to determine an
5 adjusted total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication
6 lines; said limiter factor establishing a limit regarding the number of said plurality
7 of communication lines that operate simultaneously;
8 and wherein step (e) comprises comparing said adjusted total line speed contribution
9 with said predetermined capacity to determine how many said interface units are
10 required to achieve said design capacity.

1 7. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a communication system
2 as recited in Claim 5 wherein said communication system is a telecommunication
3 system and wherein said terminus includes a multiplexing apparatus for selectively
4 coupling said respective communication lines with at least one telecommunication
5 switching apparatus.

1 8. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a telecommunication
2 system as recited in Claim 6 wherein said communication system is a
3 telecommunication system and wherein said terminus includes a multiplexing
4 apparatus for selectively coupling said respective communication lines with at least
5 one telecommunication switching apparatus.